

● PRINTER RUSH ●
(PTO ASSISTANCE)

Application : <u>09830457</u>	Examiner : <u>Lam</u>	GAU : <u>1641</u>
From: <u>ewc</u>	Location: <u>IDC</u> FMF FDC	Date: <u>1/30/06</u>

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<input type="checkbox"/> 1449		<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Data
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<input type="checkbox"/> 312		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPEC	<u>4-27-01</u>	

[RUSH] MESSAGE: _____

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line 19.

Thank you

[XRUSH] RESPONSE: _____

see misc comm.

Done

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REV 10/04

(such a change may result in a change of color and electrical properties of the deposited gold).

The method of the invention may be used for assaying the presence or concentration of a specific substance at sites on a substrate. Such a method
5 comprises the following steps:

(a) providing conditions allowing formation of nucleation centers on sites containing said substance;

(b) contacting said substrate with a treatment composition comprising said gold-providing agent and a reagent, the composition being kinetically stable
10 such that upon such exposure gold metal is essentially not deposited on the substrate unless a nucleation center is present thereon, and in the presence of a nucleation center at said sites, gold atoms are released from said gold-providing agent and deposited onto said nucleation centers to form gold metal at said sites; and

(c) detecting gold deposits on said substrate, a gold deposit at a site on
15 the substrate indicating presence of said substance at said site.

The assay method may be applicable, for example, in a variety of assay techniques, e.g. in techniques involving visualization of specimens in microscopy (which may be an optical or an electron microscope) or any SPM (A) *Scanning Probe Microscopy*
20 technique, or in identifying specific separation products on a substrate (for example, a separation product of electrophoresis or chromatography contained in a gel or on a solid substrate such as DNA-chip). In such an assay, the nucleation centers may be formed by the use of said nucleation center-forming agents where the moiety with the specific binding affinity is one member of a recognition group,
25 which may be any of those mentioned above, and the agent to be assayed is another member of the group.

In accordance with another embodiment, the gold deposition method of the invention is used in an assay intended to detect the presence of an analyte in a sample. In particular, the present invention is applicable to such a method where a
30 capturing agent held on a substrate is used to detect the presence of an analyte in a